

**MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN
TELEHEALTH SERVICES**

2008 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends the Medical Assistance Act in the Health Code.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- requires the state Medicaid program to allow the use of telemedicine for certain services that are otherwise reimbursable under the state Medicaid plan; and
- provides guidelines for reimbursing for telemedicine services.

Monies Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

26-18-12, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **26-18-12** is enacted to read:

26-18-12. Telemedicine -- Reimbursement -- Disclosure.

(1) (a) On or after July 1, 2008, communication by telemedicine is considered face to face contact between a health care provider and a patient under the state's medical assistance program if:

(i) the communication by telemedicine meets the requirements of administrative rules adopted in accordance with Subsection (3); and

(ii) the health care services are eligible for reimbursement under the state's medical assistance program.

32 (b) This Subsection (1) applies to any managed care organization that contracts with
33 the state medical assistance program.

34 (2) The reimbursement rate for telemedicine services approved under this section:

35 (a) shall be subject to reimbursement policies set by the state plan; and

36 (b) may be based on:

37 (i) a monthly reimbursement rate;

38 (ii) a daily reimbursement rate; or

39 (iii) an encounter rate.

40 (3) The department shall adopt administrative rules in accordance with Title 63,
41 Chapter 46a, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, which establish:

42 (a) the particular telemedicine services that are considered face to face encounters for
43 reimbursement purposes under the state's medical assistance program; and

44 (b) the reimbursement methodology for the telemedicine services designated under
45 Subsection (3)(a).